

TO THE  
WINCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

September, 1945.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1944.  
"It should be noted that the restriction, on grounds of national security previously imposed on the publication of population figures in the Annual Report, and reference to activities in connection with war-time industrial, military or other important developments, such as extension of water supply or sewerage works, or other public utility undertakings, have now been removed."

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CATHERINE AVERY.

M.D. (London) B.S.,  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

STATISTICS OF AREA.

Area.....110,436 acres.  
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1944.....£256,255.  
Sum represented by a penny rate.....£1,054.  
Population.....35,390.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Male.		Female.		Total.	
	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943
Live Births (Legitimate).....	348	308	318	296	666	604
Live Births (Illegitimate).....	26	23	28	15	54	38
Total Live Births.....	374	331	346	311	720	642

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population is 20.3 compared with 17.6 for the whole of England and Wales.

	Male.		Female.		Total.	
	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943
Still Births (Legitimate).....	7	12	6	9	13	21
Still Births (Illegitimate).....	0	1	0	3	0	4
Total Still Births.....	7	13	6	12	13	25

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population is 0.4 compared with 0.5 for the whole of England and Wales.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Deaths.....	215	196	411

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population is 11.6 which is the same rate as that for the whole of England and Wales.

Deaths from Puerperal causes:-

No. 29. Puerperal sepsis..... Nil.  
No. 30. Other Maternal causes.... Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)..... 63.  
Deaths from Measles (all ages)..... 0.  
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)..... 0.  
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)..... 4.

The Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age is 29.2 per 1,000 live births.  
This figure is low when compared with the corresponding figure 46 - for the whole of England and Wales.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid.....	-	-
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever.....	1	-
3. Scarlet Fever.....	-	-
4. Whooping Cough.....	-	-
5. Diphtheria.....	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	5	8
7. Other forms of tuberculosis.....	4	1
8. Syphilitic Disease.....	2	1
9. Influenza.....	2	4
10. Measles.....	-	-
11. Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis..... (Infantile-Paralysis)....	-	-
12. Acute Infective Encephalitis (Sleepy Sickness)....	-	-
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus {M}.....	2	-
Uterus {F}.....	-	6
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum.....	6	6
15. Cancer of Breast.....	-	3
16. Cancer of other sites.....	25	15
17. Diabetes.....	2	3
18. Inter Cranial Vascular Lesions.....	14	25
19. Heart Disease.....	49	50
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System.....	6	2
21. Bronchitis.....	9	10
22. Pneumonia.....	13	6
23. Other Respiratory Diseases.....	3	6
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.....	5	-
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years.....	2	2
26. Appendicitis.....	3	-
27. Other digestive Diseases.....	2	5
28. Nephritis.....	5	3
29. Puerperal & Post-abortion Sepsis.....	-	-
30. Other Maternal causes.....	-	-
31. Premature Birth.....	2	2
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease.....	7	2
33. Suicide.....	-	1
34. Road Traffic Accidents.....	5	1
35. Other Violent Causes.....	8	8
36. All other causes.....	33	26
All causes.	Total. 215	196

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.....	13	6
Illegitimate.....	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total.....	14	7

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table gives particulars of cases of infectious diseases notified, excluding Tuberculosis, for which a separate table is given:-

	Notified.	Removed to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.....	55	34	-
Diphtheria.....	2	2	-
Pneumonia.....	15	2	19
Erysipelas.....	5	3	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	4	-	-
Typhoid and Paratyphoid.....	1	1	-
Infantile Paralysis. (Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis).	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever.....	2	2	1
Measles.....	61	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	49	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	6	-	-

Only certain forms of pneumonia are notifiable, but the deaths recorded above are from all forms.

The cases of Cerebro Spinal Fever and all cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever have been visited and advice given as to the necessary medical precautions to be taken.

Scarlet Fever.

Fifty five cases were notified, compared to sixty three the previous year.

The incidence of the disease within the district was 1.63 per 1,000 population, compared to 2.4 throughout England and Wales.

Typhoid Fever.

The one case notified occurred in an adult. The source of infection was unable to be traced.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

Of the two cases notified, one occurred in an adult and the other in a child who died and who was just over the age of one year.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

All these cases recovered and there was no injury to vision.

Diphtheria.

Two cases only were notified. Both occurred in adults who had not been immunised.

Antitoxin. Antitoxin for the treatment of Diphtheria is supplied free by this Council to those general practitioners who apply for it. It is stored at convenient parts of the district.

Immunisation. This is given by this Council free to all children in this district from the age of one year up to - but not including - those of 15 years of age.

Propaganda concerning this serious malady is spread to the public by means of a Greeting Message Card being sent to all children upon attaining their first birthday, slides are shewn at the two picture houses in this district and, leaflets distributed, with the co-operation of the Food Office, to those parents applying to be supplied with milk and vitamins for children under five years of age. Much valued assistance was again afforded by the co-operation of the County Medical Officer.

The total number of children who have received complete treatment free under this Council's Scheme during the year was 701. Of these, 269 were treated by their own doctors, 167 at School Clinics and 265 at Child Welfare Centres.

The percentage of children under five years of age who have been immunised during 1944 was 47.14%, compared with that of 36.95% for the year ending 31st December, 1943. In the case of those aged five years and over, but under fifteen, the percentage is 82.38%, as compared with 81.54% for the year 1943.



I wish to draw the attention of the Council to the following extract from the summary report of the Ministry of Health for the year ending 31st March, 1944, which shows the high importance of Immunisation:- "In the two years, 1942-43, the annual rate of incidence of Diphtheria amongst Immunised children, based on the estimated time of exposure to risk, was rather more than a quarter of that amongst the non-immunised, whilst the mortality ratio was about 1 to 23. It is estimated that approximately 5 out of 6 of the children notified as suffering from Diphtheria during the same period and about 29 out of 30 of those who died from it were children who had not been given the protection of Immunisation."

#### MUMPS.

Mumps was prevalent in the Alresford area among school children in the early part of the year and at Micheldever during the latter.

#### CHICKEN POX.

This is not a notifiable disease, but was prevalent throughout the year.

#### SCABIES.

This Council, being a Sanitary Authority, has made provision for preventing and curing the condition of scabies, and for securing the treatment and disinfection of the members of households among whom scabies exists.

Arrangements. All cases brought to my notice are visited either by myself or the Sanitary Inspectors, to ensure that they are obtaining treatment either from their own doctor, or, at the Eastleigh and City of Winchester Clinics. If it appears that Institutional treatment is necessary, as in the case of evaceue children, the cases are admitted to Winton House Sick Bay.

The following is the total number of adults and children so treated at Winton House Sick Bay, City of Winchester and Eastleigh Clinics, respectively:-

	<u>Adults.</u>		<u>Children.</u>	
	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
<u>Winton House Sick Bay.</u>	Nil.	Nil.	12	16
<u>City of Winchester Clinic.</u>	3	11	8	14
<u>Eastleigh Clinic.</u>	5	20	14	17

#### VENEREAL DISEASES.

Two short films, instancing the danger to health of these diseases, were obtained from the Central Council for Health Education and were included in the routine programme which was shown at the Civic Cinema, Alresford. They were seen by, approximately, 2,250 and 3,000 persons, respectively. In addition, one of the films was included in a special programme for American Troops and was viewed by 7,500. Both officers and men said that they appreciated "the out spoken manner in which the subject was treated".

At Netley Abbey Cinema, the other picture house in the area, the film "Subject for Discussion" was presented, also in the usual programme.

A letter was received from Mr. Gerald Palmer (Member for Parliament) in reply to the copy of the resolution, urging "the government to introduce at once such legislation as will make the diseases compulsorily notifiable", forwarded to him by this Council in 1944.

In his letter, Mr. Palmer stated that he was in favour of the matter being discussed more fully in the House of Commons with a view to more effective steps being taken.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table refers to new cases notified and mortality during the year:-

<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1944. 12.	19.	4.	1. (Total 36).	5.	8.	4.	1.
1943. 11.	10.	3.	1. (Total 25).	5.	3.	3.	1.
						(Total 18).	1944.
						(Total 12).	1943.

All cases of diagnosed Tuberculosis are notified to me. During the year it is to be observed that notifications have increased in number but there has been no extensive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation within the District. Of the total number (36) of new cases, 19 were aged between 20 and 40 years. Among the 5 Non-Pulmonary cases, 4 occurred in children under the age of 10 years.

## AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

For Infectious Diseases. The Ambulances belonging to the City of Winchester and to the County Borough of Southampton are used, when needed.

For Cases of Ordinary Sickness and Accidents.

1. Such cases are served by a Joint City of Winchester and Rural District Ambulance. This Ambulance is based at Winchester and is available for cases, where needed, throughout the Rural District.

2. The American Ambulance. This, during the latter years of the war, has been used for cases when the Joint Ambulance is not available for medical cases.

3. Voluntary Car Pool. This consists of a number of cars which are used to convey cases which do not need a stretcher.

4. Civil Defence Vehicles. These vehicles are only used in the case of great urgency or accident.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Inspection.

All parts of the area have been frequently visited by me, either alone, or, with the District Sanitary Inspectors.

### Housing.

During the year the Hobhouse Report was received, and, in order to carry into effect the recommendations therein, a Joint Rural Housing Committee for Hampshire was formed consisting of representatives of the Rural Districts and of the County Council.

The Report points out "that it is imperative that the frequent inferiority of rural and, particularly, agricultural housing should not be allowed to persist after the war".

While the principal functions of the Joint Committee concern the planning of post-war housing standards and programmes, the second main recommendation related to the comprehensive survey of housing conditions in rural areas.



## Post War Survey for long term programme.

The Hobhouse Report suggests that every working class house in the district should be classified according to the categories contained therein, viz:-

- (i) Satisfactory in all respects.
- (ii) Minor defects.
- (iii) Requiring repair, structural alterations or improvements.
- (iv) Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.
- (v) Unfit for habitation, and, beyond repair at reasonable expense.

In addition, the Joint Committee regarded it as desirable to further classify the houses surveyed into three groups, according to whether services, such as piped water supply, gas, electricity, sewerage, are immediately available, or, anticipated to be so in the near future.

In order to keep the survey within a reasonable limit, it was considered that dwellings with a net rateable value exceeding £20 should not be included.

Furthermore, a Technical sub-committee has been convened to make recommendations for a suitable survey record form to be adopted throughout the County, and to prescribe a minimum and general standard of fitness for those dwellings coming within the scope of the survey.

It is estimated that in this Council's district there are about 8,000 houses to be surveyed. This has necessitated additional staff, as the Sanitary Inspectors, in addition to their routine work, would be unable to complete the survey. Accordingly, two Survey Officers have been appointed for this purpose.

All the twelve Agricultural houses instructed to be built by the Council were completed and occupied early in 1944. They are situated as follows:-

Stoke Charity.	4.	Micheldever.	4.
Cheriton.	2.	Botley.	2.

The work of carrying out the repair and maintenance of houses of the working classes in this District has, of necessity, been delayed, owing to the scarcity of labour and material, but, essential work, such as the repair of leaky roofs and defective and rotted woodwork to floors and windows, where necessary, have been carried out, thus, improving the housing conditions as far as at present it is possible to do so.

### Water Supply.

Population and Dwelling Houses. It is estimated that, approximately, 82% of the population are served with a piped water supply, and that the proportion of dwelling houses connected with a main supply is, approximately, 69%. Forty houses have been connected to the main during the year.

The bulk of the main piped water in this District is supplied by the two Local Authorities, the Corporation of Southampton and the Corporation of the City of Winchester. Considerably smaller proportions of the area and of the population are supplied by water from The Alresford Water Company and The Crabwood Water Supply. These water undertakings make periodical, bacteriological and chemical examination of their water.

At Owslebury, there is a stand-pipe supply of water, which is supervised by this Council. Forty nine houses depend on this supply and a population of, approximately, 225 persons.

With regard to public supplies, this Authority, has had three bacteriological examinations of raw water made, and one chemical analysis.

Water from wells supplying individual properties have been examined, either as the result of complaint, or, during the course of routine inspection.

Nine samples from these wells were reported as unsatisfactory for drinking purposes. In two cases the cause of pollution was removed, and, in the remaining seven, alternative sources of supply were found.

Agricultural Water Supplies. During the year, work in connection with several agricultural piped water supply schemes has been in progress. As this has been under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture, no plans have been submitted to this Council.

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944. Under this Act it is enacted that Local Authorities shall provide a supply of wholesome water in pipes to every rural locality in their district in which there are houses and schools, provided it is practicable at a reasonable cost.

Accordingly, a Consultant Engineer has been engaged by this Council to make a survey of this district, in order to report on Water Schemes for those villages still without piped water supplies.

During the year 1944, there was an exceptionally low rainfall. Consequently the inhabitants who depended upon the wells and rainwater tanks for their water supply were, in some areas, much undersupplied. Parts of the following parishes were affected:- Bighton, Bishops Sutton, Old Alresford, Brandean, Cheriton, South Wonston, Kilmeston, Northington, Micheldever, Beauworth, Botley, West End, Fair Oak, and Golden Common. For some weeks it was necessary for this Authority to transport water to Bighton, the village chiefly affected by the drought. On other occasions, the National Fire Service assisted, by transporting water in a few instances for domestic use and, on numerous occasions, for agricultural purposes.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The provisional sewerage for New Alresford, which was commenced in 1939 has been proceeding steadily during the years of War, and, at the present time, 320 houses are connected, including Perin's School. There are approximately 130 dwellings still to be connected.

The carrying out of the scheme for the main drainage of West End, which was approved by the Ministry of Health during 1938, was unable to be commenced on account of the advent of the War.

During the war there has been no extension of the main sewerage for military purposes in this District.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.


Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories ... .. (With Mechanical Power)	5.	2.	-
Factories ... .. (Without Mechanical Power)	41.	4.	-
Other premises under the Act ... (Including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)	-	-	-
Total ... ..	46.	6.	-

(Signed) J. C. H. IVERY.

September, 1945.

Medical Officer of Health.



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SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1944.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to report briefly the year's work of sanitary administration as shown in the routine inspections carried out in the district during the year which are tabulated below:-

Statute.	Nature of Visits.	No. of Inspections.	
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.	(a) Inspections for reconstructions, alterations and cleanliness. (b) Number of alterations and improvements to dairy premises.	124.	7.
Factories Act, 1937.	Routine Inspections of premises. Defects or want of cleanliness remedied.	46.	6.
Shops Act, 1934.	Routine Inspection of premises.	22.	
Food & Drugs Act, 1938.	Inspection of Food.	560.	
Housing Act, 1936, Part II.	(a) Inspection of Cottages. (b) Re-inspection of Cottages.	38. 76.	
P.H. Acts, 1936.	(a) Drainage Survey Inspections. (b) Alterations, Inspection and testing of drains. (c) Nuisances found and remedied. (d) Re-inspection of premises. (e) Water Supply Inspection.	34. 6. 120. 1113. 98.	
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Acts.	Visits and/or Disinfection of Premises.	88.	
Rat & Mice Destruction Act, 1919. Rodent Control.	(a) Number of premises surveyed. (b) Number of premises treated.	2563.	559.
Interviews.			220.
	Samples of Well Water examined. Number reported polluted.		36. 9.
Total.		4888.	

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

